

RECOGNIZING RON YEAKLE ON HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor the life and service of Mr. Ron Yeakle on his 87th birthday. Mr. Yeakle is a true patriot. His story of extraordinary heroism and commitment to country has been an inspiration to many.

Ron Yeakle was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. In World War II, Mr. Yeakle served as a bomber pilot. During a bombing mission near Vienna, Austria, his B-24 Liberator was shelled at over 22,000 feet. In a harrowing feat of courage and bravery, Mr. Yeakle survived the jump and was later captured by enemy soldiers and forced to spend 14 months in German concentration camps. In what must have seemed like a hopeless situation at times, Mr. Yeakle and the other captors managed to encourage each other to endure this horrific experience until they were liberated by General George Patton and his men.

After the war, Mr. Yeakle and his wife Dorothy moved to Pensacola, Florida. In 1969, Mr. Yeakle was a co-founder of Piping and Equipment, Inc., where he still serves as a consultant. Additionally, Mr. Yeakle has served on the West Florida Hospital Board and the Ellyson Industrial Park Board. Ron and his wife have two daughters, Priscilla Carroll and Suzanne O'Meara.

It is with great honor, Madam Speaker, that I recognize the life and deeds of Mr. Ron Yeakle on his 87th birthday. He has been a leader both at times of war and times of peace. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday and his entire family all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO KIM WITCRAFT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kim Witcraft of Charles City, Iowa for his achievement as a 2010 Stars of Life award recipient.

The Stars of Life award publicly recognizes and celebrates the achievements of all people working in the selfless and heroic ambulance industry. The Stars of Life Program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for their service, their sacrifice and the inspiration they bring to all Americans.

Kim has been recognized as a hero who has assumed several roles to ensure that the American Ambulance Association's Charles City small operation succeeds and continues to provide much needed help to area citizens. He is a state-certified EMS instructor and handles all clinical and education services and schedules most of the trainings for his operation. Kim also handles safety training for fifth and sixth graders in the area and presents many safety talks each year to Iowa elementary school students.

I know that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating and thanking Kim

Witcraft, one of Iowa and America's everyday heroes for his service and his constant consideration for the well-being of others in his community.

HONORING THE MICHAEL JAZZ TRIO FOR THEIR MUSICAL GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a unique group of young musicians from my district, the Michael Jazz Trio.

The Michael Jazz Trio is comprised of three brothers from Central Islip, New York: Matthew, David and Jordan Godfrey. These young men have shared with the Long Island community not only their extraordinary talent, but also their passion for philanthropy. On Saturday, May 1st, 2010, they performed at Central Islip High School to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

I am proud to honor the Michael Jazz Trio for sharing their musical gift with the community.

THANKING STATE LEGISLATOR POLLY BUKTA FOR HER SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Iowa State Legislator Polly Bukta for her service to Iowa and our country. Representative Bukta is retiring from the Iowa State Legislature at the end of the 2010 state legislative session.

Representative Bukta has represented the Clinton region in the Iowa legislature since 1997. She has been a principled, pragmatic leader. In addition to serving on several committees in the Iowa House—including the Education, Local Government, and Transportation, and Veterans Affairs Committees—Representative Bukta is Speaker Pro Tem of the Iowa House. She was elected to this position because she has earned the trust and respect of her colleagues.

On the first day of the 2010 Iowa Legislative Session, Representative Bukta delivered the following remarks to the Iowa House:

Honor the institution. Thomas Jefferson did it, and so did James Madison, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and other builders of our governmental institutions. They worked tirelessly to make representative government work. Now the well-being of our state legislature is in our hands. Preserve and protect it so it remains a strong, co-equal branch of government. Legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits. It is an important duty that deserves our time, attention and dedication. To work well, government requires a bond of trust between citizens and their representatives. Try to appeal to the best instincts of the electorate, talk about what you stand for, what you intend to do during your time in office and then work as hard as you can to fulfill those promises. Remember why you ran for

office—to make a difference, a difference for the better.

Representative Bukta has made "a difference for the better" for her constituents and the state of Iowa. Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Representative Bukta and her family for their service.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY, 2010

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division and of Polish Constitution Day, which is celebrated this year on May 2, 2010. Polish Constitution Day is a time for Poles to honor the struggles, sacrifices and victories of their ancestors. It is a day when people of all cultures join with the Polish community to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland.

After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. An important document in the history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished key elements of serfdom.

Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Polish-Americans. It serves as a unifying force for both Polish-Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Additionally, the Polish American Congress has helped integrate Poles into the United States with programs like the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War II.

The Polish-American community in Cleveland is deeply rooted in its commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy and hard work. As in years past, the Greater Cleveland community will join in celebration of Poland's rich history and culture by attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Polish American Congress as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day. Their dedication to preserving and promoting their heritage, history and culture with Greater Cleveland serves to enrich and illuminate the brilliant and diverse fabric of our entire community.

PUERTO RICO DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2499) to provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico: